

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 85

RESOLUTION CHAPTER 55

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 85—Relative to American Stroke Month.

[Filed with Secretary of State May 24, 2006.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

SCR 85, Alquist. American Stroke Month 2006.

This measure would recognize May 2006 as American Stroke Month in California, and would urge all California citizens to familiarize themselves with the warning signs, symptoms, and risk factors associated with stroke.

WHEREAS, On average, someone in the United States has a stroke every 45 seconds; and

WHEREAS, On average, every three minutes someone in the United States dies of a stroke; and

WHEREAS, Stroke is the third leading cause of death in the United States, striking approximately 700,000 Americans each year; and

WHEREAS, Stroke leads to the deaths of more than 18,000 Californians each year; and

WHEREAS, In 2005, the estimated direct and indirect costs attributable to stroke in the United States exceeded \$56.8 billion; and

WHEREAS, The majority of Americans are unaware of their risk factors for a stroke, nor are they aware of the signs and symptoms of an impending stroke; and

WHEREAS, Warning signs of stroke include sudden numbness or weakness of the face, arm, or leg, especially on one side of the body, sudden confusion, trouble speaking or understanding, sudden trouble seeing in one or both eyes, sudden trouble walking, dizziness, loss of balance or coordination, and sudden severe headache with no known cause; and

WHEREAS, The American Stroke Association, a division of the American Heart Association, strives to reduce disability and death from stroke through research, education, fundraising, and advocacy; and

WHEREAS, The American Stroke Association is celebrating May 2006 as American Stroke Month in California; and

WHEREAS, The theme for American Stroke Month 2006 “Time Lost Equals Brain Lost,” offers advocates for stroke awareness an opportunity to educate the public and policymakers about the devastating effects of stroke; and

WHEREAS, The American Stroke Association’s Power To End Stroke Campaign urges members of our communities to familiarize themselves

with the warning signs, symptoms, and risk factors associated with stroke to reduce the devastating effects a stroke has on the entire community; and

WHEREAS, The American Stroke Association has committed itself to educating the African-American community about the increased risk of stroke, and how to prevent it, with its new campaign, “The Power To End Stroke . . . You are the Power;” and

WHEREAS, New and effective treatments have been developed to treat and minimize the severity and damaging effects of stroke, but much more research is needed; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly thereof concurring, That the month of May 2006 shall be recognized as American Stroke Month in California in order to raise awareness of the effects of stroke; and be it further

Resolved, That the Legislature urges all California citizens to familiarize themselves with the warning signs, symptoms, and risk factors associated with stroke so that we might begin to reduce the devastating effects strokes have on our population; and be it further

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.